

Richard Nixon Presidential Library
Contested Materials Collection
Folder List

<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>No Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
47	23	6/24/1971	<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign	Other Document	Notes. RE: First planning meeting. 5pgs.

NOTES - FIRST PLANNING MEETING

BRYCE HARLOW:

EMK will be the candidate if he believes RN to be vulnerable. Will make the decision to run early next year and follow through on it. If not EMK it will be HHH. If EMK is not the candidate, he will try to kill off whoever is the Dem nominee in order to have a clear run in 1976. If EMK wants it, he'll get it.

Should not focus on EMK right now; the Dem candidates are doing it among themselves. Best thing for RN at this point is to denigrate the Democratic party. E.g., the Dems and their cohorts leaking of the secret papers.

RN might meet with the leadership and chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Forces committees, the Hill leadership, the JCS, CIA, AG, maybe Connally and tell them that there is a crisis, and that RN and the country needs their help.

Average American is appalled at the notion of the media printing any secret they can get a hold of.

At the present time, would like to see EMK as the opponent. His background might make campaigning a joy.

Would make the public nervous to think that EMK would be President, what with his cheating and Chappaquidick.

RN could make great progress on the security leak question. It is a non-partisan issue which is conducive to public discussion. E. g., call in Tom Gates and Neil McElroy and ask them to get the word out. We're at a crisis point. Get military groups together and get their assistance; e. g., VFW, Amer. Legion, Navy League, etc.

It would be institutional attacking; not personal attacking and thus more acceptable.

LYN NOFZIGER:

Agrees with Bryce on order of candidates: EMK, HHH, and ESM.

Idea is to tarnish Dems and their candidates. Don't let them forget EMK and Chappaquidick or HHH and his connection with the Vietnam war.

Don't aim at one candidate -- but slug away at each of them. Also attack other Dems; e. g., O'Brien, Clifford and the others. The more we can do it this year, the better off we are. Especially since this is a non-political year.

Everyone from the Veep on down should be on the attack.

Dems hit us hard and get away with it; Republicans do it and get called McCarthyites. E.g. Republicans ought to be labeling everything Dems do as McCarthyism and if the term is used enough, the word will become worthless.

Gerry Ford would be one of our resources if RN asked him to. We need workhorses to do the job; need spokesmen.

RN should be above the battle; others should do the job for him.

Thinks EMK the toughest candidate. Lyn has no confidence in the American people to hold EMK's liabilities against him. EMK scares the hell out of him. Rather run against Muskie.

We have got to use all our resources. E.g. cultivate columnists. No let-up. Dems don't give up, why should we? We've got to join the battle.

Some thought ought to be given to the fact that some are trying to stir up the Republican Conservatives into opposition to the President.

RAY PRICE:

Since we hold office, we'll be attacked if people associated with RN go on the attack. '70 was a political backlash and we probably shouldn't try so hard.

Has no thoughts on candidates. Too much can happen between now and nomination. ESM's great strength is that he has the image of a non-politician in a time when people are fed up with politicians. He should be made to look like a politician to make mad at him those people who think he's above politics. The thing to do is to make Dems seem like cheap politicians.

Leans toward EMK as the candidate we should want. RN incumbency shows he is a "professional President" and portray EMK as the inexperienced upstart who has not grown into the job -- or not yet grown up enough.

Believes that RN's appearing at a party function in a Presidential way is o.k. Nothing wrong with it.

BILL TIMMONS:

Places probable candidates in this order: EMK, ESM, HHH. Ought to determine which candidate we'd like to run against.

We have the power to build up candidates, and we ought to use this to get the candidate we want.

Thinks we should be hitting hard. Anyone who can make news. Need to look for more opportunities to get unlikely guys like Ed Brooke to take one of the Dems on.

GEORGE GRASSMUCK:

Should build up people on our side who will be listened to.

ED DEBOLT:

We've only got about 6 months to be political. Be a danger to cause EMK to be the candidate. We should show EMK to be an upstart who doesn't know anything.

Party should be more hungry for victory. RN needs to tell them this. Get some fires started. RN could use party functions to give non-partisan speeches. No trouble with that. Party people need some stoking.